

Natural Environment Element Policy update

Natural Environment Element Policy update | **NOTE** this document excludes *Policies NE-16 – NE 111* (Section B. Environmentally Critical Areas) which are incorporated in Shoreline Master Program and will be updated at a later time.

GOAL – streamline/simplify/condense polices as needed to reduce redundancy of concepts and increase readability

Section	Existing Policy #	Existing policy	Existing, Updated, Deleted, or New	Summary of update	Draft 1 policy update
	FW-6	Protect, enhance and restore habitat and natural ecosystems to levels of function that provide resilience and adaptability, prevent natural hazards, and support biological imperatives for clean water and air.	Existing	Current City priority	No change proposed
	FW-7	Protect and restore the natural resources and ecological functions of shorelines, maintain and enhance physical and visual public access, and give preference to uses that are unique or dependent on shoreline locations.	Existing	Current City priority	No change proposed
	FW-8	Improve the response and resiliency of the City to climate change impacts in built, natural and social environments with an emphasis on public health.	Deleted	Moved to draft Climate Resiliency Element	Strike Improve the response and resiliency of the City to climate change impacts in built, natural and social environments with an emphasis on public health.
	FW-9	Support Redmond as an urban community that values clean air and water, views of stars at night, and quiet neighborhoods.	Deleted	Redundant	Strike Support Redmond as an urban community that values clean air and water, views of stars at night, and quiet neighborhoods.

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	FW-10	Achieve reductions and mitigate impacts community-wide from greenhouse gas emissions and criteria air pollutants. Additionally, promote efficient energy performance and use of energy sources that move beyond fossil fuels	Deleted	Moved to draft Climate Resiliency Element	Strike Achieve reductions and mitigate impacts community-wide from greenhouse gas emissions and criteria air pollutants. Additionally, promote efficient energy performance and use of energy sources that move beyond fossil fuels
	FW-11	<p>Emphasize Redmond’s role as an environmental steward by conducting City business in a manner that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases community understanding of the natural environment through education and involvement programs to promote active participation in addressing environmental challenges and solutions; • Promotes sustainable land use patterns and low-impact development practices; and • Leads by example in the conservation of natural resources, such as energy, water and trees, and avoidance of adverse environmental impacts 	Existing	Maintains current practices	No change proposed
A. Environmental Stewardship	NE-1	Incorporate a systems perspective into policy, regulatory, and service decisions, recognizing the interrelationship of people, nature, and the economy. Consider broader implications and look for ways to accomplish multiple goals (i.e., value	Updated	Clarity of intent	Incorporate a whole-systems approach perspective into policy, regulatory, and service decisions, recognizing the interrelationship of people, nature, and the economy. Consider broader implications and look for ways to

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		stacking) rather than default to short-term piecemeal efforts.			accomplish multiple goals (i.e., value stacking) rather than default to short term piecemeal efforts.
	NE-2	Utilize Best Management Practices (BMPs) and technology in City projects and practices to achieve effective environmental stewardship while striving towards sustainable fiscal responsibility.	Deleted	Covered in other policies	Strike Utilize Best Management Practices (BMPs) and technology in City projects and practices to achieve effective environmental stewardship while striving towards sustainable fiscal responsibility.
	NE-3	Conduct City operations in a manner that provides quality municipal services to the community while encouraging resource conservation and minimizing adverse environmental impact.	Updated	Clarity of intent	Conduct City operations in a manner that Provide quality municipal services to the community while encouraging resource conservation conserving resources and minimizing adverse environmental impacts.
	NE-4	Maintain and, where possible, improve air quality, water quality, soil quality, and ecosystem function to ensure the health and well-being of people, animals, and plants.	Updated	Updated to reflect city priorities	Maintain and, where possible, strengthen efforts to improve air quality, water quality, soil quality, and ecosystem function to ensure the health and well-being of people, animals, and natural systems plants.
	NE-5	Minimize and, where practical, eliminate the release of substances into the air, surface water, soil, and groundwater that degrades the quality of these resources or contribute to global atmospheric changes.	Updated	Updated to reflect city priorities	Minimize and, where practical, Strengthen efforts to reduce or eliminate the release of harmful substances into the air, surface water, soil, and groundwater that degrades the quality of Redmond's natural systems. these resources or contribute to global atmospheric changes.

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	NE-6	Encourage the judicious use of renewable natural resources and conserve nonrenewable resources.	Existing	Maintains current practices	No change proposed
	NE-7	Minimize water use and optimally recycle material resources to protect natural systems by reducing resource extraction, greenhouse gas emissions, and air and water pollution.	Updated	Updated to reflect city priorities	Minimize Conserve water use and optimize reuse recycle of material resources to protect natural systems by reducing resource extraction, greenhouse gas emissions, and air and water pollution.
	NE-8	Reduce waste, reuse and recycle materials, and dispose of all wastes in a safe and responsible manner.	Updated	Clarity of intent	Promote sustainable consumption strategies and zero waste of resources. Reduce waste, reuse and recycle materials, and dispose of all wastes in a safe and responsible manner.
	NE-9	Promote and lead education and involvement programs to raise public awareness of environmental issues, encourage respect for the environment, and show how individual actions and the cumulative effects of a community's actions can have significant effects on the environment.	Updated	Simplified	Promote and lead education and involvement programs to raise public understanding awareness of environmental issues, and encourage respect for the environmental al stewardship. , and show how individual actions and the cumulative effects of a community's actions can have significant effects on the environment.
	NE-10	Support sustainable development and strive towards becoming a sustainable community.	Existing	Maintains current priorities	No change proposed
	NE-11	Explore ICLEI's (Local Governments for Sustainability) STAR Community Index as a road	Deleted	Outdated	Strike

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		map for creating a healthy, inclusive, and prosperous city.			Explore ICLEI's (Local Governments for Sustainability) STAR Community Index as a road map for creating a healthy, inclusive, and prosperous city.
	NE-12	Encourage environmentally friendly construction practices, such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), King County Built Green, and low impact development.	Updated	Updated for clarity and to reflect city priorities	Encourage Advance environmentally friendly responsible -construction practices that minimize natural resources, reduce waste, advance net zero energy, and leverage low impact development strategies. , such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), King County Built Green, and low impact development.
	NE-13	Encourage projects which utilize alternative technologies, engineering, and plans which emphasize low-impact development strategies through incentives and flexibility in meeting regulatory requirements.	Updated	Grammar	Encourage projects which that utilize alternative technologies, engineering, and plans which that emphasize low-impact development strategies through incentives and flexibility in meeting regulatory requirements.
	NE-14	Cooperate with other local governments, State, federal and international agencies, and nonprofit organizations to protect and enhance the environment to foster sustainability, especially for issues that affect areas beyond Redmond's boundaries.	Updated	Updated for clarity and to reflect city priorities	Cooperate Collaborate with other local governments, State, federal and international agencies, and nonprofit organizations to foster advance sustainability and conservation goals to protect and enhance the environment. , especially for issues that affect areas beyond Redmond's boundaries.

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	NE-15	Plan, deploy, and maintain physical and social infrastructure such that vulnerability to natural hazards and disasters is reduced for all members of the community, and ensure that communities are adequately prepared to respond to a crisis, response is effective and coordinated, and recovery is accelerated	Updated	Updated for clarity and to reflect city priorities	<p>Ensure that the planning and implementation of environmental sustainability and hazard mitigation projects are equitable and do not disproportionately impact vulnerable populations.</p> <p>Plan, deploy, and maintain physical and social infrastructure such that vulnerability to natural hazards and disasters is reduced for all members of the community, and ensure that communities are adequately prepared to respond to a crisis, response is effective and coordinated, and recovery is accelerated.</p>
	NE-16 - NE-111		Existing	Part of SMP, not being updated at this time	No changes proposed
C. Tree Preservation and Landscape Canopy Enhancement	NE-112	Preserve the natural environment and Redmond's forested appearance.	Updated	Updated for clarity and to reflect city priorities	<p>Enhance green space, tree canopy, habitat quality, and natural drainage systems.</p> <p>Preserve the natural environment and Redmond's forested appearance.</p>
	NE-113	Maintain no net loss of significant trees within the city over the long term.	Updated	Updated to reflect city goal and reference TCSP	Increase Redmond's tree canopy to 40% of city's land area by 2050 using strategies identified in the Tree Canopy Strategic Plan.
	NE-114	Maximize tree retention and a treed appearance when development occurs through the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require the retention of viable tree clusters, 	Updated	Added policy on Centers	Maximize tree retention and a treed appearance when development occurs through the following:

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		<p>forested slopes, treed gullies, and specimen trees that are of species that are long-lived, not dangerous, well-shaped to shield wind, and located so that they can survive within a development without other nearby trees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and construct developments to retain these trees. • Identify and protect these trees during land divisions and site development. • Allow removal of nonsignificant trees to provide for project construction. • Plant replacement trees on appropriate areas of the site or off-site locations to replace significant trees removed during construction. • Encourage appropriate tree pruning, avoiding topping. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require the retention of viable tree clusters, forested slopes, treed gullies, and specimen trees that are of species that are long-lived, not dangerous, well-shaped to shield wind, and located so that they can survive within a development without other nearby trees. • Design and construct developments to retain these trees. • Identify and protect these trees during land divisions and site development. • Allow some tree removal in Centers when required to allow development of climate-friendly higher-density and transit-oriented development. • Allow removal of nonsignificant trees to provide for project construction. • Plant replacement trees on appropriate areas of the site or off-site locations to replace significant trees removed during construction. • Encourage appropriate tree pruning, avoiding topping.
	NE-115	Design City capital improvement projects to preserve trees to the maximum extent possible.	Updated	Updated to reflect city practices	<p>Design and construct city capital projects to maximize tree canopy by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and protecting trees during site development. • Allowing removal and replacement of trees that are impacting critical infrastructure. • Planting replacement trees on appropriate areas of the site or off-site locations to

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					<p>replace significant trees removed during construction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging appropriate tree pruning, avoiding topping. <p>Design City capital improvement projects to preserve trees to the maximum extent possible.</p>
	NE-116	Implement Comprehensive Plan designations and zoning for forested slopes and treed gullies consistent with the goal of retaining tree cover in these areas.	Deleted	Not legally permissible, policy intent covered elsewhere	Strike Implement Comprehensive Plan designations and zoning for forested slopes and treed gullies consistent with the goal of retaining tree cover in these areas.
	NE-117	Preserve trees within stream, wetlands, and their associated buffers, and lake building setbacks.	Existing	Maintains current practices	No change proposed
	NE-118	Plant suitable native trees and native vegetation within degraded stream, wetlands, and lake buffers. Encourage planting suitable native trees and native vegetation within steep slopes.	Existing	Maintains current practices	No change proposed
	NE-119	Require street trees along all arterial streets and along local streets designated in neighborhood policies. Where street trees are not practical, consider designating areas through neighborhood policies where trees will be required to be planted on developable lots.	Updated	Updated for clarity	Require street trees along all arterial streets and along local streets designated in neighborhood policies. Street trees should be selected, placed, and installed to maximize tree life and reduce safety hazards. Where street trees are not practical, consider designating areas through neighborhood policies where trees will be required to be planted on developable lots.

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	NE-120	Plant street trees in planter strips or tree wells located between the curb and any sidewalk where feasible. Select tree species and planting techniques to create a unified image for the street, provide an effective canopy, avoid sidewalk and utility damage, and minimize water consumption. Require deciduous shade trees that are well suited to the climate and to planting along streets and sidewalks.	Deleted	Regulatory and covered in NE-119	Strike Plant street trees in planter strips or tree wells located between the curb and any sidewalk where feasible. Select tree species and planting techniques to create a unified image for the street, provide an effective canopy, avoid sidewalk and utility damage, and minimize water consumption. Require deciduous shade trees that are well suited to the climate and to planting along streets and sidewalks.
	NE-121	Provide information to community residents and property owners to encourage them to plant trees on their properties.	Updated	Clarity of intent	Provide information resources and incentives to community residents and property owners to encourage them to plant trees on their properties.
	NE-122	Maintain and enhance a street tree maintenance program on arterial streets and City-owned trees.	Existing	Maintains current practices	No change proposed
	NE-123	Establish private maintenance provisions for trees that will be retained within developments.	Existing	Maintains current practices	No change proposed
D. Climate Change	NE-124	Develop a Climate Action Plan, which includes greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets for the city.	Deleted	Moved to draft Climate Resiliency Element	Strike Develop a Climate Action Plan, which includes greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets for the city.

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	NE-125	Achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions in both municipal operations and the community at large, with attention given to social equity.	Deleted	Moved to draft Climate Resiliency Element	Strike Achieve greenhouse gas emissions reductions in both municipal operations and the community at large, with attention given to social equity.
	NE-126	Include analysis of climate change impacts when conducting environmental review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).	Deleted	Moved to draft Climate Resiliency Element	Strike Include analysis of climate change impacts when conducting environmental review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).
	NE-127	Promote the reduction of greenhouse gases by expanding the use of conservation and alternative energy sources and by reducing vehicles miles traveled by increasing alternatives to driving alone.	Deleted	Moved to draft Climate Resiliency Element	Strike Promote the reduction of greenhouse gases by expanding the use of conservation and alternative energy sources and by reducing vehicles miles traveled by increasing alternatives to driving alone.
	NE-128	Take positive actions such as increasing the number of trees in the city, to reduce carbons.	Deleted	Redundant	Strike Take positive actions such as increasing the number of trees in the city, to reduce carbons.
	NE-129	Identify and address the impacts of climate change on the city's hydrological systems.	Deleted	Moved to draft Climate Resiliency Element	Strike Identify and address the impacts of climate change on the city's hydrological systems.
E. Air Quality	NE-130	Promote compliance with federal and state air pollution control laws and improvements to regional air quality in cooperation with the Puget	Updated	Updated agency name	Promote compliance with federal and state air pollution control laws and improvements to regional air quality in collaboration with the Puget Sound Air Pollution Control Agency and the

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		Sound Air Pollution Control Agency and the Puget Sound Regional Council.			Puget Sound Regional Council Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.
	NE-131	Achieve criteria air pollutant reductions in both municipal operations and the community at large, with attention given to social equity.	Existing	Maintains current practices	No change proposed
	NE-132	Maintain high air quality through land use and transportation planning and management.	Existing	Maintains current practices	No change proposed
	NE-133	Continue implementing and enforcing commute trip reduction programs as a means to limit or reduce vehicle trips as a key strategy for reducing vehicle related air pollution.	Deleted	Moved to draft Climate Resiliency Element	Strike Continue implementing and enforcing commute trip reduction programs as a means to limit or reduce vehicle trips as a key strategy for reducing vehicle related air pollution.
	NE-134	Reduce the amount of airborne particulates through a street sweeping program, dust abatement on construction sites, covered loads of hauled materials, and other methods to reduce the dust sources.	Updated	Clarity	Reduce the amount of airborne particulates through a street sweeping program, dust abatement on construction sites, covered loads of hauled materials, and other innovative methods to reduce the dust sources.
F. Noise	NE-135	Maintain noise regulations to limit noise to levels that protect the public health and that allow residential, commercial and manufacturing areas to be used for their intended purposes. Provide flexibility in the regulations to allow construction at night when necessary to protect worker safety while maintaining the tranquility of the city.	Updated	Added economic considerations	Maintain noise regulations to limit noise to levels that protect the public health and that allow residential, commercial and manufacturing areas to be used for their intended purposes. Provide flexibility in the regulations to allow construction at night when necessary to protect worker safety and minimize service disruptions , while maintaining the tranquility of the city.

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	NE-136	Provide noise reduction and mitigation measures to reduce the noise and visual impacts of freeways and arterials on residential areas. Ensure the Washington State Department of Transportation provides appropriate levels of noise suppression when expanding or improving state highways.	Existing	Maintains current practices	No change proposed
	NE-137	Require buffering or other noise reduction and mitigation measures to reduce noise impacts from Commercial and Industrial zones on residential areas.	Existing	Maintains current practices	No change proposed
	NE-138	Assure that mixed-use developments are designed and operated to minimize noise impacts. Measures may include provisions controlling uses, design and construction measures, and timing requirements.	Deleted	Covered in other policies and regulations	Strike Assure that mixed-use developments are designed and operated to minimize noise impacts. Measures may include provisions controlling uses, design and construction measures, and timing requirements.
G. Light Pollution	NE-139	Minimize and manage ambient light levels to protect the integrity of ecological systems and public health without compromising public safety and cultural expression.	Existing	Maintains current practices	No change proposed
	NE-140	Design and construct night lighting to minimize excessive glare and to avoid spillover onto nearby properties.	Existing	Maintains current practices	No change proposed

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	NE-141	Minimize overhead lighting that would shine on the water surface of the city’s various streams. Encourage the use of pedestrian level or shaded lighting when providing lighting along the Sammamish River Trail.	Updated	Added “Lake Sammamish”	Minimize overhead lighting that would shine on the water surface of Lake Sammamish or the city’s various streams. Encourage the use of pedestrian level or shaded lighting when providing lighting along the Sammamish River Trail.
	NE-142	Encourage dark night skies in Redmond’s residential neighborhoods, in the Sammamish Valley, in the Bear Creek Valley, and over Lake Sammamish in development regulations, design standards, and development review.	Existing	Maintains current practices	No change proposed